



REPORT

to the

Haltwhistle Rural District
Council



For the Year 1955

by

J. M. McEWAN, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STAFF :

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*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle ::*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Haltwhistle Rural District during 1955. There have been no outstanding changes in local circumstances during the year, but steady progress has been made in improving social conditions.

The population of the district continues to show a slow fall in number, as is common in many rural districts. The birth rate is rather below the national average, but is higher than for some years previously. The infant mortality rate is slightly above the average for England and Wales, but where small numbers are involved, as here, the significance of this figure should not be exaggerated. At the other end of the scale, many of the deaths were among aged persons—of the 109 deaths, 55 were of persons over 70, and 27 of persons over 80 years.

As was the general experience, there were many cases of Measles and Whooping Cough during 1955. After an interval of one year Poliomyelitis returned with five cases. Haltwhistle has been unfortunate in that it has in more than one year recently had a small outbreak of poliomyelitis, while neighbouring districts have escaped, it is difficult to account for this. The control of an outbreak is not easy, and it is probably fortunate that the cases occurred towards the end of the Summer and not early in the season. The five cases can all be classed as mild, all have made good progress. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis. As the death rate falls, and as the treatment of tuberculosis becomes increasingly effective, the finding of the early cases becomes of greater importance. The nearest chest clinic is at Hexham, and the open sessions held there do not serve the area very well. Visits from time to time by the Mobile Mass Radiography Unit are probably more effective.

The houses under construction at Coanwood and Gilsland were completed during 1955, and a start was made with new housing in Haltwhistle itself—30 houses at Comb Hill were begun. A further programme in Haltwhistle will be required as, apart from the needs of young couples and those living under over-crowded conditions, some 70 houses are unfit for human habitation.

The Council continue to encourage the modernisation of older property by giving Housing Improvement Grants, and so help to prolong the life of the property. Assistance under the Hill Farming Act is also available. By these means the villages and hamlets can be kept in being and some of the amenities of the town given.

The main improvement in water supply has been that the Harpertown Water Scheme has been begun. The North Side Supply continues to be unsatisfactory, and further steps were taken to improve it. In common with other districts, Haltwhistle suffered from the extremely dry summer, and when springs failed, tanking had to be undertaken. In 1955, preliminary steps were taken with a view to bringing into the district an ample supply of piped water to augment existing supplies, and this long term policy will probably be the solution to the present difficulties.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and encouragement, the Clerk and other Officials for their co-operation. My thanks are especially due to the Sanitary Inspector, who carries out his duties so ably.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1955 is 7,420, a decrease of 30 on the 1954 figure. The tendency appears to be a slow fall in population.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1955, was 2,405.

The rateable value is £40,035.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £153 3s. 4d.

The following list of persons employed in various industries is virtually unchanged compared with 1954.

	<i>Males and Females over 15 years of age.</i>			
Coal Mining	724
Paint, Varnish and Chemicals	401
Distributive Trades	264
Agriculture	262
Professional Services	135
Local Government Service	134
Quarrying	112
Building Trades	110
Transport	96
Pipe and Brick Works	54
Bakeries	54
Motor Engineering	24
Miscellaneous	168

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District, estimated at 30th June, 1955, was 7,420. This is a decrease of 30 compared with 1954.

Birth Rate

At 14.56 live births per 1,000 population, the birth rate shows an increase of 1.20 on the figure for 1954. It compares with 15.0 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of a total of 101 live births, one was illegitimate. There were 6 still-births, compared with none in 1954.

Infantile Mortality

There were four deaths of infants under one year, all occurring in the first four weeks of life. The infant mortality rate is 39.6 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 24.9 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 109 deaths occurred during 1955, an increase of 11 on 1954. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 13.22 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.7 per 1,000 population.

13 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 16 in 1954.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

There were 124 cases of Measles in contrast to 19 in 1954.

Whooping Cough

24 cases were notified during 1955, compared with 7 in 1954.

Erysipelas

There were two cases of Erysipelas, now becoming an uncommon disease.

Food Poisoning

One case of Food Poisoning was notified.

Tuberculosis

Three cases were notified, two being respiratory. There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis.

Poliomyelitis

Five cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in 1955, 3 Paralytic, 2 Non-Paralytic, compared with 6 in 1953 and 9 in 1952.

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Gynaecologist :	Mr. Linton Snaith, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. G. J. Murray, M.D.
Matron :	Miss E. Morton.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Mondays and Fridays at 1-30 p.m.

Consultant Radiologist :—Dr. Beamish.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

Second Friday every month at 2 p.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 2-30 p.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred to this hospital.

Patients for our-patient Physiotherapy are treated at this hospital.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) CHEST CLINICS.

Hexham General Hospital—Tuesdays from 9 a.m.

Tuberculosis Officer :—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Open Sessions :

Tuesday	..	..	2—4 p.m.
Wednesday	..	..	6—7 p.m.
Friday	..	..	6—7 p.m.

(b) INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(i) *Wooley Sanatorium.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service

(a) *Ante-Natal Care.*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Hospital by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital.*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

Bowmer Bank Hostel, Morpeth, cares for unmarried expectant mothers.

(c) *Domiciliary Service.*

Two midwives reside at the Haltwhistle Nurses' Home, Allenbrae, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Home Help Service

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people.

County Orthopaedic Service

The Orthopaedic Clinic for children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m., and at Haltwhistle Hospital on the first Tuesday every month at 2 p.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital.

Child Welfare Service

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Hospital every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

A Clinic has now been opened at Halton-lea-Gate, meeting every fourth Friday. A similar clinic serving Gilsland was opened during 1955.

The building of a new Clinic at Haltwhistle is proceeding.

School Dental Clinic

Clinics are held every Monday at Haltwhistle Hospital. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer :—Mr. Ireland.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, Dr. Messer, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is run and maintained by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1955, 1,973 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance :

Road Accidents	..	16	Mileage Covered	..	265
Other Accidents	..	32	Mileage Covered	..	882
Invalids	..	169	Mileage Covered	..	4,681
		<hr/>			<hr/>
		217			5,828

Car Sitting Cases :

		1756	Mileage Covered	..	38,884
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total Cases		1,973	Total Mileage		44,712
		<hr/>			<hr/>

It must again be emphasised that the apparent excessive use of this service is occasioned by a considerable proportion of the population living some distance from Haltwhistle, and in isolated areas and the long journeys from Haltwhistle, to the larger Hospitals and Special Clinics.

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Registrar : Mr. G. Luke.

Office : Westerley Terrace, Haltwhistle.

Hours : Wednesdays, Saturdays :—11 a.m. to 12 noon. Thursdays : 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

TABLE I.

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the years 1945-1955.

YEAR	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1945	17.1	14.3	68	.43
1946	20.72	17.6	81	.56
1947	17.98	16.57	29	.14
1948	16.85	14.02	24	.45
1949	18.17	16.40	30	.68
1950	15.52	13.65	60	.27
1951	14.10	12.25	37	.13
1952	14.02	13.89	38	.13
1953	14.35	12.36	—	.00
1954	13.36	11.84	43	.13
1955	14.56	13.22	39.6	.13

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE.	YEAR										
	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	6	5	11	19	3	1	18	15	13	5	—
Whooping Cough ..	6	2	2	—	14	106	2	3	44	7	21
Diphtheria ..	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2
Measles ..	67	34	33	19	147	155	50	121	186	19	124
Pneumonia ..	4	16	5	2	4	3	4	5	7	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	9	6	—	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	1	—	—	9
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	88	62	53	45	172	268	83	157	258	26	162

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW NOTIFICATIONS						DEATHS					
	Respiratory			Non- Respiratory			Respiratory			Non- Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—+	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births		Total	Live Births		Still Births		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1945	58	60	—	2	120	8	3	—	—	11
1946	83	65	1	—	149	7	4	—	—	11
1947	74	64	1	3	142	4	1	—	—	5
1948	70	55	1	—	126	3	3	1	—	7
1949	71	63	2	2	138	2	4	1	1	8
1950	65	51	4	1	121	1	5	—	—	6
1951	54	53	2	1	110	2	2	—	—	4
1952	66	40	5	—	111	2	1	—	—	3
1953	58	45	1	5	109	4	—	—	—	4
1954	51	42	—	—	93	1	3	—	—	4
1955	56	45	1	5	107	1	—	—	—	1

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS.

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age				Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age			
		M.	F.			M.	F.
Legitimate	..	2	2	Legitimate	..	2	2
Illegitimate	..	—	—	Illegitimate	..	—	—
		2	2			2	2

TABLE VI.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH.		1952		1953		1954		1955	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3	1	2	3	—	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—
12.	Malignant, Neoplasm, Breast..	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus..	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	5	3	5	3	4	6	3
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	13	8	8	9	11	18	8
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina ..	8	8	20	5	9	9	13	5
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	13	7	9	7	5	7	6	5
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ..	3	2	3	1	3	2	4	4
22.	Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	—	—	—	1	3	—	3	—
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, Child Birth. Abortion	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7	1	1	6	3	4	6
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
34.	All other Accidents	2	1	—	1	4	1	—	3
35.	Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES		54	51	55	38	51	47	69	40

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

General

Most of the spring supplies were affected by the severe drought and the yield from the various springs was adversely affected from June until December.

North Side Supply

This supply was seriously affected by the drought. Some 300 yards of 3-inch main were laid to by-pass a section of the existing main over which a telephone cable had been laid, thus preventing the scraping of this section.

Eastern Area Supplies

An additional spring at the Melkridge Supply, which had been used for temporary periods, was permanently taken in to the supply. Some 600 yards of 3-inch main were laid to overcome a 'bottleneck' formed by a section of 2-inch main near Carrsgate.

A further 500 yards of 3-inch main were laid from Riverdale to Chainleyford in order that properties at Scrogwood and Westwood can be fed from the Melkridge supply in place of the unsatisfactory Birkshaw supply.

Gilsland Supply

This supply was adversely affected by the severe drought and shortages were experienced.

Halton-lea-Gate Supply

The scheme to augment the existing supply to Halton-lea-Gate and to serve Harpertown Village, was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and, by the end of the year, good progress had been made on the works.

PARISH	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	54	171	15	47
Coanwood ..	15	46	25	79
Featherstone ..	32	102	18	47
Greenhead ..	49	157	13	42
Haltwhistle ..	1,035	3,412	70	224
Hartleyburn ..	40	128	23	80
Henshaw ..	134	429	33	105
Melkridge ..	43	137	12	38
Plenmellor with Whitfield ..	25	80	3	9
Slaggyford ..	75	225	3	9
Thirlwall ..	119	348	16	51
	1,621	5,235	231	731

WATER ANALYSIS

Samples of water for Chemical Analysis were taken as under :—

Date.	Supply.	Private or Public	Result
19/9/55 ..	New Springs Halton-lea-Gate	Public	Satisfactory
16/12/55 ..	Allolee Spring	Private	Satisfactory

Samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the following supplies and the appropriate steps were taken to eliminate contamination on the supplies where pollution was found :—

Date.	SUPPLY.	Public or Private.	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result
12/1/55	Melkridge Supply: Stand Tap ..	Public	.. 3	Satisfactory
12/1/55	Bardon Mill :			
	Tap, Bowes Hotel	Public	.. 90	Unsatisfactory
	Tap, Oakdene ..	Public	.. 160	Unsatisfactory
	Tap, The Grange	Public	.. 50	Unsatisfactory
26/1/55	Tap, Bowes Hotel	Public	.. 8	Suspicious
	Tap, Oakdene ..	Public	.. 10	Suspicious
	Service Reservoir	Public	.. 17	Unsatisfactory
	Collecting Chamber	Public	.. 5	Suspicious
9/2/55	Haltwhistle :			
	Tap, Council Offices	Public	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
9/2/55	North Side Supply :			
	Service Reservoir	Public	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
9/2/55	Burnhouse Farm :			
	Pipe at Trough ..	Proposed Private	3	Satisfactory
	Spring	Proposed Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
3/3/55	Melkridge :			
	Stand Tap ..	Public	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
3/3/55	Bardon Mill :			
	Tap, The Grange	Public	.. 1	Satisfactory
	Tap, Bardon Mill	Public	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
	Tap, Oakdene ..	Public	.. 1	Satisfactory
16/3/55	High Birkshaw :			
	Pipe to trough ..	Proposed Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
16/3/55	Hill House, Henshaw :			
	Pipe at trough ..	Private	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
12/5/55	Shanters :			
	Pipe to trough ..	Private	.. 1	Satisfactory
12/5/55	Harpertown :			
	Village Well ..	Village Well	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
12/5/55	Brich Trees Supply :			
	Tap, Hillbrow School ..	Public	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
20/6/55	Midgeholme Farm, Ridley :			
	Pipe at trough ..	Proposed Private	160	Unsatisfactory
	Tap in kitchen	Private	.. 50	Unsatisfactory
20/6/55	Gapshields Farm :			
	Tap in washhouse	Private	. 3	Satisfactory
	Spring ..	Private	.. Nil.	Satisfactory
30/8/55	Gibbs Hill Farm :			
	Spring	Proposed Private	3	Satisfactory

Date.	SUPPLY.	Public or Private.	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result
30/8/55	High Maiden Way : Shallow Well ..	Private ..	90	Unsatisfactory
30/8/55	Cleughfoot Farm ..	Proposed Private	35	Unsatisfactory
4/10/55	Melkridge : Stand Tap, Melk- ridge	Public ..	11	Unsatisfactory
4/10/55	Gilsland : Reservoir ..	Public ..	3	Satisfactory
4/10/55	Quarry House, Coan- wood :			
	Tap in kitchen ..	Private ..	35	Unsatisfactory
	Pipe at trough ..	Private ..	20	Unsatisfactory
25/10/55	Birch Trees Supply : Tap, Council Offices	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
25/10/55	Melkridge : Stand Tap, Melk- ridge	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
25/10/55	Bardon Mill : Tap, Bowes Hotel	Public ..	1	Satisfactory
25/10/55	Well Cottage, Cowburn : Trough	Private ..	13	Unsatisfactory
21/11/55	Orchard House, Gils- land :			
	Collecting Chamber	Private ..	180+	Unsatisfactory
21/11/55	Pipe from Nos. 1 & 2 Springs	Private ..	3	Satisfactory
21/11/55	No. 2 Spring ..	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/11/55	No. 1 Spring ..	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
5/12/55	Halton-lea-Gate : Tap, Valley View	Public ..	1	Satisfactory
5/12/55	Allolee Spring : Overflow from Col- lecting Chamber	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
5/12/55	North Side Supply : Lees Hall Gate ..	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

New Schemes

During the year a sewer and sewage disposal plant, to serve 8 new Council houses at Coanwood, was completed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat

Four private slaughterhouses are operating in the District—3 in Haltwhistle and 1 in Gilsland.

Most of the meat inspection is carried out outside normal working hours, as slaughtering is usually done during the evenings.

The slaughterhouses have been well maintained and no nuisance has arisen in connection with the premises.

The quality of the animals killed has been excellent and the number of casualty animals dealt with has been very low.

The arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat and offal have been satisfactory.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	526	23	7	1,943	473	—
Number Inspected	526	23	7	1,943	473	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole Carcases condemned	1	2	—	4	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	304	8	1	31	12	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	58.98	43.48	14.28	1.59	2.53	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	8	5	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	1.52	21.73	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year :—

UNSOUND FOOD.	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (Home Killed) Stones	68½	—	—
Beef (Imported) „	7½	—	—
Mutton (Home Killed) „	9½	—	—
Mutton Imported „	—	—	—
Pork (Home Killed) „	—	—	—
Pork (Imported) „	—	—	—
Game Lbs.	—	—	—
Poultry „	—	—	—
Fish „	—	—	—
Fruit Cases	—	—	—
Canned Food Tins	14	—	—
Bacon Lbs.	19	—	—
Cheese „	—	—	—
Butter „	—	—	—
Lard „	—	—	—
Eggs, Frozen	—	—	—
Cooked Ham (Canned) „	47	—	—
Sausages „	—	—	—
Offal (Home Killed) Stones	222	—	—

Milk and Dairies

Number of Distributors of Milk registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—1954 7

Number Licensed for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954 3

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of Ice Cream 2

Number of Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream 9

Food Premises

The following shows the number of food premises, by type of business in the District :—..

Butchers	7
Bakehouses	4
Cafes	2
Confectioners	3
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
General Stores	19
Greengrocers	4
Grocers	5
Hotels	8

HOUSING

The following table shows the number of houses completed during the year :—

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	21	—	21
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	4	4

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

<i>Closing and Demolition :</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>
Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	—
Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	—
Houses closed, not demolished	10
Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	—

Repairs :

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts—

By Informal action	49
By owners, following statutory notice	—
By local authority in default of owners	1
Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	—

Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949 :

	<i>No. of Separate Houses.</i>
Applications submitted to local authority ..	27
Applications rejected	—
Applications approved	27
Total number of applications approved in the district since the inception of the scheme ..	96
No. of Houses, not included in above figures, approved for grants under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts, 1946-54 ..	7

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service, carried out by direct labour, has operated satisfactorily during the year.

Collections are made from most of the reasonably accessible properties in eleven of the twelve parishes in the District, twice weekly in Haltwhistle, and once per week in the remainder of the area. The total number of houses covered is approximately 1,980.

One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Vehicle with driver and two loaders is used in Haltwhistle and Plenmeller, and a 7 cubic yard Bedford vehicle with driver and one loader covers the more outlying parts of the district. Another 7 cubic yard Bedford is retained as a spare refuse vehicle and for use by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Sanitary pails are collected by the refuse collection staff from the various parts of the District still without adequate sewerage systems. This unpleasant task is carried out as efficiently as possible, but occasional complaints are received to the effect that certain pails are not emptied frequently enough. This state of affairs is regretted and every effort should be made for the provision of sewerage systems in the villages at present without these.

Three refuse tips are in use and these have been satisfactorily maintained by the Tip attendant who also acts as a relief driver and Rodent Operator.

RODENT CONTROL**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

Work under this heading proceeded during the year.

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed but, by force of circumstances a considerable part of this employee's time is spent on duties connected with refuse collection and disposal.

During the year disinfestation treatments have been carried out by the Rodent Operator on Council Properties and private houses.

The report as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is given in the following table :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) Agri- cultural
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (in. Council Houses)	(3) All other (incl. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
Number of Properties in Local Authority's Dist.	14	2,036	145	2,195	302
Number of properties in- spected as a result of :-					
(a) Notification ..	—	14	—	14	—
(b) Survey under the Act	14	102	30	146	12
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose	—	130	80	210	59
Total inspections carried out including re-inspect- ions	64	251	114	329	74
Number of properties in- spected which were found to be infested by :					
Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Rats					
Minor ..	4	30	4	38	12
Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice					
Minor ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of infested prop- erties treated by the Local Authority ..	4	30	—	34	—
Total treatments carried out including re-treat- ments	16	34	—	50	—
Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act :—					
(a) Treatment ..	—	—	4	4	12
(b) Structural Work (<i>i.e.</i> , Proofing) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of ' Block ' con- trol Schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be enforced by Local Authority ..	3	3	—	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	27	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ..	2	4	—	—
TOTAL	37	34	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) —					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	—	—	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLY

Sources closed or discontinued	2	No. of Houses	..	..	2
New Service provided :—					
(a) By Local Authority	.. 21	No. of Houses	..	..	21
(b) By Private Owner	.. 8	No. of Houses	..	..	8

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections	..	..	..	..	148
Applications for Council Houses	..	..	..	..	97
Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	126
Housing General	..	..	..	..	26
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	89
Drainage	..	..	..	..	108
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	98
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	12
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	19
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	91
Factories	..	..	..	..	34
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	65
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	28
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	17
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	240
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	31
TOTAL					1,220

